

Best Practices in Site Data Management, Analysis, and 2-D and 3-D Geospatial Visualization Tools from Hazardous Waste Site Investigation Activities

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on detail from OSWER/OSRTI

What is a Visualization “Best Practice”?

In this poster, a “best practice” is a technology that helps site managers:

- 1) accomplish something of programmatic value that could not otherwise be done, and/or
- 2) reduce the cost or improve the quality of an analysis done by other means.

Geospatial analysis is entering the mainstream of environmental information management because it does both these things.

Geospatial Technology Supporting Programmatic Needs

At its best, the strength of geospatial visualization is its immediacy (i.e., its ability to clarify complicated issues and focus attention on what is most important more quickly than could be done otherwise). In reviewing best practices, two themes emerge:

- 1) variations in the analytic complexity of different available technologies, and

- 2) variations in the accessibility of these technologies to different audiences.

A geospatial technology does not have to be the most complex or the most accessible to qualify as a best practice. It must simply offer the right combination of complexity and accessibility to fulfill a particular programmatic need.

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